



**International
Diabetes
Federation**

International Charter of Rights and Responsibilities of People with Diabetes

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is a Charter needed?

A. Millions of people with diabetes face stigma and discrimination which creates barriers to services, employment, and even marriage, and may stop people with diabetes playing an active role in society. The rights to life and health are fundamental human rights. This Charter gives Governments and organisations clear guidance on what the fundamental rights to life, health and freedom from discrimination mean to people with diabetes.

Q. Give me an example of when people are being denied their fundamental human rights.

A. Children and adults with diabetes are denied those when their diabetes is undetected or they lack access to affordable technologies and necessary medicines.

Q. This is an ambitious document. Are you expecting Governments and organisations to implement it immediately?

A. The Charter is ambitious and challenging but IDF's intention is to create a gold standard to which Governments, organisations and people with diabetes should aspire.

Q. Do you have a target date for full implementation of this document?

A. This is designed as a gold standard to which Governments can aspire. We have not set a target date but we will encourage Governments and organisations to sign up to and aspire to the principles that underpin the rights to life and health for people with diabetes.

Q. Is it legally enforceable?

A. No – this Charter is designed to be a statement of the principles to which Governments should aspire in meeting their commitments to fundamental human rights for people with diabetes

Q. Are there any countries or organisations that meet the standards you have set?

A. We recognise that these standards are high and it is unlikely that any country currently meets them. But people with diabetes currently suffer discrimination and stigma. A Charter setting out key principles that recognise their health and human rights is an important tool to tackle that

discrimination and empower people with diabetes to play a central role in the management of the disease. Significantly, the Charter also sets out the responsibilities of people with diabetes.

Q. How was the Charter drawn up?

A. Initial work on the Charter was carried out by a small working group of experts under the leadership of IDF President-Elect Sir Michael Hirst. The final text was approved by the Board of the International Diabetes Federation.

Q. How does the Charter link to other Charters of Rights?

This Charter embraces the principles of health and human rights of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It also builds on major human rights documents such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Q. What is IDF going to do with this Charter?

A. It is a key element in IDF's campaign for coordinated and concerted international action to tackle the diabetes epidemic before, during and after the UN High Level Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in September 2011. IDF will use the Charter to empower people with diabetes with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities, promote greater involvement of people with diabetes in prevention, care and research, and mobilise partnerships between all stakeholders in the battle to defeat diabetes.

Q. What should I do with this Charter?

A. The Charter enshrines rights and responsibilities of people with diabetes. Use it as a campaign tool to raise awareness of those rights and responsibilities. Encourage Government ministers and politicians to sign it. Encourage employers, health care professionals and educational organisations to sign it.